

A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR COMMUNICATION VIA A COMPUTER
NETWORK

ABSTRACT

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10 A method and apparatus for communication via a
computer network (102) including registering a plurality
of users (206, 222, 224) with a trusted body (110, 210).
The trusted body (110, 210) verifies the identity of each
user (206, 222, 224) and generates a random identifier
(216) for each user (206, 222, 224). A plurality of
users (206, 222, 224) can enter into a dialogue with the
other users by means of messages sent over the computer
network (102) via the trusted body (110, 210). A user
15 (206, 222, 224) remains anonymous through use of its
random identifier (216) until such time as the user (206,
222, 224) reveals its true identity. Due to the
registration of the users (206, 222, 224) with the
trusted body (110, 210) a means of non-repudiation of the
20 dialogue by the users (206, 222, 224) is provided.